

News Release



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Intel, State Parks and Conservancy Launch War Against Invasive Plants

Volunteers from Intel and the American River Conservancy To Do Battle At Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

COLOMA –There are places in California where invasive weeds are aggressively attacking native plants and winning a very silent, but deadly war. For that reason, California State Parks is teaming up with volunteers from Intel and the American River Conservancy to help eradicate invasive plants at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma. On Thursday, April 11, 150 computer chip designers from Intel Corporation's Folsom campus will go to the park to help remove Scotch broom, a particularly noxious weed. This community service project is part of a statewide effort to remove the spread of harmful plants.

The American River Conservancy, a local non-profit conservation organization in Coloma, is coordinating the removal of Scotch broom in the area. The plant is a tall shrub with yellow pea-like flowers that has been aggressively invading areas along roadsides, rivers and forests throughout California. The weeds are capable of out-competing existing vegetation by spreading rapidly.

State Park Ranger Mark Michalski, at Marshall Gold State Historic Park, said, "We've been trying to get the upper hand on the Scotch broom problem for some time, but it's such an aggressive invader along stream banks and clearings in the forest. When we pull it in one area, it comes up in another, so that we never have time to put the systems in place that will keep it at bay. With the Intel group's help, we'll be able to get ahead of the game, and really maintain control of the broom."

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